

Consumer Task Force
March 27, 2007
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
10:00 am - noon

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Tandy Bidinger, Jacqui Day, Sara Harrison, Susan Steinke, Michael Daschlein, Joe Longcor, Marion Owen, Ruth Smith, Rob Curtner, Kate White, Ruth Smith, Tony Wong, RoAnne Chaney, Nora Barkey, Cathy McRae, Tommy Meadows, Verna Spayth, Mike Head, Jackie Tichnell

MINUTES: Minutes were approved with one typo.

OFFICE OF LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

UPDATE: Jackie will provide the one-page summary that was distributed at the Long-Term Care Commission meeting yesterday.

PROJECT UPDATES: In addition to the handout, the following comments were provided:

- Independence Plus/Money Follows the Person: The web address noted on the update is the curriculum from the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute.

The Self-Determination Conference is June 11/12. The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC, RoAnne Chaney, 1-517-333-2477, x319) has funds available for consumers to attend conferences.

The Person-Centered Planning Guidelines draft was distributed for comments. Comments may be made to Robert Curtner at curtnerR@michigan.gov. Further discussion will occur at the next Consumer Task Force meeting.

- Medicaid Infrastructure Grant: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) returned the State Plan amendment for personal care in the workplace, with questions. Most of the answers have been informally agreed to by CMS.

MSA/OLTCSS is still working on the conversion of the working AD (Aged and Disabled) -Care population to Freedom to Work. This would entail approximately 6,200 people. A draft letter to consumers regarding the conversion has been sent to MSA for comment and implementation.

Other agencies have been invited to assist in resource mapping of employment opportunities in preparation for the submission of the larger Medicaid Infrastructure Grant this summer. Interested consumers are asked to stay after the April Consumer Task Force meeting for further discussion on this grant. The OLTCSS will continue to involve consumers in development of this grant.

Mathematica completed a study of the Freedom to Work Program that indicated many of the earners in this population are younger nonwhite consumers who tend to not be on SSI or SSDI. Michigan is the most liberal state regarding their asset and earning policies. There was a brief discussion regarding the perceived “punative” nature of SSI and SSDI. These are both being revisited at a national level. Tony Wong (517-487-5426, x130: tony@arcmi.org) would be the contact for national issues. Contact him if you have issues or personal experiences to share.

- Systems Transformation Grant - Strategic Planning: There is a Stakeholder’s forum at the Sheraton on Wednesday, March 28. This plan will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in April. Michael Daeschlein distributed an updated version of the three goals and a listing of web sites to provide

background information on the long-term care vision. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in this grant. While this grant does not include mental health long-term care issues, there are many individuals with developmental disabilities who require long-term care and are not in the mental health system.

- **Deficit Reduction Act/Money Follows the Person Demonstration:** There was a telephone conference with the technical assistance agency regarding housing issues involving the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staff. HUD has encouraged each state housing agency to support the Money Follows the Person initiative and the Nursing Facility Transition initiative. Michael Daeschlein (daeschleinm@michigan.gov) has more information regarding the phone conference.
- **ADRC Grant -** Nora distributed the Logic Model for the LTC Connections (single point of entry). This will also be discussed at the next meeting.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONSUMER TASK FORCE: There was discussion regarding the leadership of the Consumer Task Force. It was suggested that the consumers chair the group and determine the agenda. The Office would continue to provide support. It was noted that the Office provides consistency. Another issue is the need for more consumers on the Task Force. Also, the two-hour time frame does not provide sufficient time. Longer meetings were briefly discussed. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Next meetings: April 24, 2007, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards

May 22, 2007, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards